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College of Veterinary Medicine Welcomes New Student Services Specialist

Loren Wille[†]

As recent SCAVMA President, I discovered very quickly who my resources were. One of my main resources was Lisa Bomberger, the new Student Services Specialist at the College of Veterinary Medicine. We were both new at our position last semester and had much to learn about the veterinary college and how things get accomplished here. I got to know Lisa at the very beginning of the fall semester while planning the SCAVMA Freshman Orientation. She really helped make the program a success and I have depended on her ever since! When talking with Lisa you will quickly discover that she is very interested in and genuinely cares about students and everything that happens at the veterinary school.

I was asked to introduce Lisa Bomberger because I have had the opportunity get to know her through our close working relationship. I felt that the best way to approach this task was to get the information from the source...Lisa! I asked Lisa about her family, previous jobs, personal interests, why she took this job, what she hopes to accomplish here, and her future goals. Lisa, being the helpful person that she is, responded by writing the following responses for me:

I was born in Des Moines, Iowa, and moved eventually to Wilton, Iowa, where my parents still live. I have two older sisters who live in Davenport, Iowa, and Columbus, Ohio. After earning my two-year degree at Muscatine Community College, I transferred to Mount St. Clare College in Clinton, Iowa. Mount St. Clare is a small liberal arts college that provided me with my first taste of professional positions in higher education. I worked in the Office of Admissions for over three years after graduation, and the part of my job that I enjoyed most was direct contact with the students going through the process of college selection and acclimating to 'The Mount'. Interested in moving forward in this career of higher education, I began to conduct a job search that led me to accept a position within Drake University's Office of Admissions. Working as the Tele-Counseling Supervisor, I oversaw the day-to-day operations of a student staff who contacted



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prospective students via the telephone. Within a year I was ready to take another leap forward. It was via a search on the internet, prompted by my father, that I found this opportunity within the College of Veterinary Medicine.

My main interest in becoming the Student Services Specialist was the knowledge of the intense amount of involvement this position would allow me to have with the students. I am astounded by the amount of activity that the students generate outside of the rigorous curriculum that is part of becoming a veterinarian. (Have I really only been here for three months?) The feeling that is generated from the students, faculty, and administration is one that points to the need to be more than a student earning a degree. There is a generosity of sharing between these three components that evolves into the goal of becoming a 'human veterinarian'. This is a very positive environment in which to work and a motivational force that provides a challenge to keep improving the processes to help you achieve this goal.

Those of you who have gotten to know me have (I hope) seen the high level of enthusiasm and excitement I have about what you are accomplishing and how proud I am to be in a position to offer support for the activities that you each take part in. Those of you who know me best may also realize that while I may never don a lab coat...it is clear that my stomach has some strange aversion to the anatomy lab...I'll never hesitate in my efforts to encourage you to be an active participant in getting all you want out of your educational experiences!

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Some of you have also been tipped off to a few of my habits already. That treacherous bike ride that you call VAGBRAA—glad I made it through that one! Watching Austin Powers with the VM1's—it was much more fun than renting and watching at home! Cooking—okay, so the caramel apple thing showed my lack of prowess there (hence the development of my obscure eating habits)! Driving long distances to visit friends and family must indicate my love for travel!?! Future goals of mine include finding the right program in higher education here at ISU to expand my knowledge. I hope that students realize that my position here is to support your ideas, activities, and experiences and to facilitate a voice

to faculty and administration about what your ideas and experiences are. The term 'student services' can sometimes lead people to the assumption that we do things for the students. I feel that the reality is that we help students to achieve the experience they want to have within the framework of their education. Or, in a word, 'empowerment'.

Lisa Bomberger has adjusted to Iowa State College of Veterinary Medicine's community very quickly and has been a wonderful asset. I would like to welcome her and congratulate her on her first semester here. It is a relief to get that first semester under your belt whether you are a veterinary student or the new Student Specialist!◆

A Tribute to Andrea Bashara

Cathy Cunningham[†]

Biomedical Communications, ISU



The student services office at the ISU College of Veterinary Medicine is a valuable resource for the entire population at our veterinary school. The individual who is seated behind that desk has to be knowledgeable about every aspect associated with the college and must have incred-

ible patience, organizational and communication skills, confidence, creativity, and amicability.

This past spring we said goodbye to an individual who has defined this student service specialist position and served as a wonderful resource for our entire community. Andrea Bashara first came to Iowa State in 1993. I was just starting my first year of veterinary school and she went through our freshman orientation with us. Over the next three years it became apparent that her position was the "heart" of the school. Her office was never quiet or empty. There was usually a line outside her door on any given day, but you knew it was worth the wait because your problems were solved, your questions were answered, or your concerns were heard. No matter how many projects Andrea was working on, she always made time for any individual. Her attitude was amazing. She enjoyed her work, and although her position was quite demanding, she never appeared to be stressed. Andrea also took the initiative to strengthen relations between administration and the students. She attended and frequently helped organize the student activities and meetings, and she kept administration informed on student life.

Andrea has been a wonderful asset to our college of veterinary medicine, and we are fortunate to have had those three years with her. She is currently living in Omaha, Nebraska, with her husband, Pete (ISU '97), and she is the Assistant Director of Admissions at Creighton University School of Law.◆

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